GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:7
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015
Development of Tourism
Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified locations having tourism potential in various States/UTs of the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce special tourism package for connecting important tourist locations in all the States and if so, the details thereof along with the financial assistance extended in this regard, State/UT-wise;
(c) the steps taken by the Government for the development of tourism in various States/UTs of the country including the State of Kerala over a period of time; and
(d) whether the Government has taken any action on the proposal submitted by the Kerala Government for the development of Thenmala eco-tourism and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

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STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*7 ANSWERED ON 30.11.2015 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM.

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Tourism (MOT) has identified 12 thematic circuits for development namely North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit and Ramayana Circuit under the Plan Scheme Swadesh Darshan for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Themes launched in 2014-15.

The MOT has also identified thirteen important pilgrimage sites namely Ajmer (Rajasthan), Amritsar (Punjab), Amravati (Andhra Pradesh), Dwarka (Gujarat), Gaya (Bihar), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), Kamakhaya (Assam), Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Patna (Bihar), Puri (Odisha), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Velankanni (Tamil Nadu) for development under the scheme National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) launched in 2014-15.

The Central Financial Assistance for the projects in the States/UTs under these schemes as well as other plan schemes of MOT are provided subject to availability of funds, inter-se priority, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the relevant scheme guidelines.

The list of number of projects and amount sanctioned under Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC), Human Resource Development (HRD), Fairs and Festivals, Rural Tourism, Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD schemes during the last three years and current year (till 24.11.2015) is given in Annexure.

(d): The Eco-destination Thenmala project which was prioritized for the year 2014-15 could not be processed due to the late receipt of Utilisation Certificate against fund released earlier to the State Government of Kerala.
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